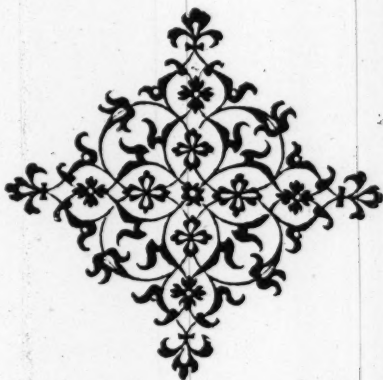


6
7

THE
ANSVVER
made by the Noble Lords
the States, vnto the Ambassa-
dour of Polonia.

Imprinted at Amsterdam by
Peter Genaerts, dwelling in Lyn-
baeus Pat. Anno.

1597.



LONDON.
Imprinted by *John Windet*. 1597.



107

th
hu
pr
se
ne



Sigismundus the third by the grace
of God King of Polonia. Great
prince of Letawen, Duke of the
Rusians, Prussians, Massawes,
Samayts and Liefland, and King
of Sweden and VVenden.

Withy, Honorable, noble, este-
med, famous, beloued and es-
peciall. we being mooued by
many and true causes and es-
pecially by the consideration
of y^e present estate of Christen-
dome: Doe sende to you the
Honourable Pawel Van Dyialyn our Courtier. To
the end you should courteously & willingly heare
him in that which on your owne behalves he is to
propound. which thing how bee it we assure our
selues you will performe of your owne accord, yet
neverthelesse we earnestly require you therunto,
and

and doe offer vnto you euery way our Inclination and good will.

Given at Warfaw the 19. of May, Anno 1597
in the tenth yeare of our Raigne in Polonia, and
in our fourth yeare in Sweden. Subscribed Sigismundus Rex. The direction is. To the worthy
Honourable Noble esteemed and
famous the States of the vnitied
Provinces in the Low Countries, our beloued and
especiall.



to
h
P
an
w
A
S
sa
vn



T H E
A N S W E R E
made by the Noble Lords and
States, vnto the Ambassa-
dour of Polonia.



The States generall of the vnited
Provinces with all dutifulnesse,
haue giuen eare vnto the propoliti-
on made by the Honourable Pawle
Van Dyialyn in the name of the most
excellent and puissant King of Po-
lonia and Sweden. And vppon communication
had concerning the same with the most excellent
Prince and Councell of estate: Haue concluded to
answere thereunto in brieve. Viz. That they verie
willingly doe vnderstand that his most excellent
Maiestie, so graciously wisheth all good from
God, vnto these vnited Provinces. And for the
same they in like manner by their prayer do wish
vnto the said most excellent and puissant King,
long

long life, faithfull Councell & prosperous successe, against the generall enemye of him and of all Christendome.

And as for that which the saide Honourable Lord Ambassadour furthermore did declare at large, touching the cruell warres of the Turke, howbeit the States here before by their many euident signes and other witnessses haue had vnderstanding thereof, yet his forces and the perillous dangers of Christendome being now so manifestly represented before their eyes, doe make them exceeding much agriued.

Also the States be wholly of the same opinion and meaning with the saide most excellent and puissant King. That if (all debate being set aside) the Kings and Princes did conioyne their weapons and forces in one, (which in the deepest dangers of Christendome hetherto yet neuer could be brought to passe.) That then Christendom might lightly be freed from these mischiefes.

But it exceedingly griueth the States: That the saide most excellent King of Polonia and Sweden is so preposterously incensed by the euillwillers of these Countries. That his Maiestie should thinke, that these warres which the sayde States (being thereunto of necessitie forced) do maintain: Be the cause that the King of Spaine conuerteth not his Souldiours and Treasures, for the suppressing of the Turke & of y other enemies

mies of Christendome. For in so much as concerneth the States, the cause why they maintaine these lamentable wars which already haue continued so many yeares: Hath beene long since more then sufficiently vnto all Christendome knowne, neither thinke they it now to be needfull nor do meane to set down here in many wordes, what the power is of Kings ouer or aboue their Subiects.

But do (Signifie.) That these Low Countries (as publickly it is knowne) neuer had any Kings but onely Princes, as namely Dukes & Carles, who haue beene tide and Lyable vnto Lawes, certaine, no lesse then the people and subiects.

Wherefore insomuch as the K. of Spain^e, these many yeares with intollerable tyranny, hath oppressed these Countries contrary to the ancient lawes and priueledges, by his ovr & oth confirmed. And hath also without any iust cause, caused many hundred thousandes of people to bee destroyed, and kept in hold, yea afterwards (contrary to the lawes of all Nations) executed the Messengers of these countreyes that were men noble and of honor, sent ouer it to Spaine to treat for an end of his cruelties, to be made. And moreover after wardes without consent of the States, hath brought in new Taxations w^{ch} were harde of before, and banished out of the Cow^{try} an innumerable multitude of people of all per of conditions and degrees. It is no

wondered at, that (all Bariens being overcome) in fine our God hath furnished weapons, whereby vnder conduct of the right puissant Regent the noble Prince of Orange: first Holland and Sealmd., and then afterwarde the other Prouinces did rescue, or franchised themselves, which they haue taken in hande much latter then the continuall cruelties and tyranny of these Spaniards merited, and then the Princes and States of any other Prouinces woulde. Who woulde not for the shortest while haue suffered the hundredth part of those mischiefes and evils, which the inhabitants of these prouinces so many years since haue endured?

And how be it that the States of their naturall loue towarde their Lordes, haue tryed all things that might tend to the auoyding of wars, and in like manner haue intended all meanes for peace, not onely by themselves, but also that euen the Emperour, the Queenes Maiesty of England, the King of Fraunce, and also the German Princes haue bene mediators therein. Yet neuer the nearer could the same be brought to passe. Which is the cause that they perceiving no more hope of any lawfull peace, and hauing to the grievous losse of the Countries, learned that the King of Spayne vnder the cloake of intreaty for peace, did pretende to rent in sunder the vniou of the countries, and to surpriſe the Townes, haue after the destruction of many men in wars, and the ouerthrow

uerthrow of many Towns, and after many manner of calamities suffered, beene constrained to betake them to some other Counsell.

And so what at all times hath beene free for all Nations, that they may cast off from their neckes the insupportable burthens yea of the Kinges themselues, as many examples can make manifest. The same euer hath beene permitted and free for the free nation of the Lowe Dutch Countries, in proceeding to make a laborsull and necessary declaration, that the Lord of the countrey is fallen from all his right, the which thing many yeares since hath beene not onely permitted and concluded, but also by Edict or Placat published. After the which many of the Provinces condescended vnto the Duke of Alençon brother to the King of Fraunce to be their Lord, and did after his decease (as also theretofore) vnder the gouernment of the said right excellent Prince of Orange, agaynst the Spaniardes followe or prosecute the warres, and he being in villanous manner after the president of barbarous nations (through publike rewardes propounded by the Spaniardes) brought to his ende trayterously not in publike battell but at home. Also the enemye they hauing recouered hope, that the affaires of these Countries woulde not onely come to lamentable commotion, but also fall to vtter ruine and decay: Yet the same notwithstanding these Provinces by the helpe of God Almighty won

whome alone the States depend) haue vnder conduct of his most worthy sonne Prince Maurice beene not onely protected, but also with his yeares encreased, growen, & in their bounds enlarged.

Now in that concerneth the King of Spaine, and his intent and hart (which best by his works may be knowne.) It is notorious that he intendeth nothing lesse, then to warre against the Turke, but that he vnder colour of vpholding the Romish Religion, seeketh to raigue ouer all Christian Princes: For what els is or euer hath beene the cause of his warres against the most excellent Queene of England: what els hath moued him to step into the French warres, and to seeke after the Kingdome of Fraunce? and to endeouour to withdraue or turne the Dukedome of Guylik and cleaue from their right Lordes and successors, wherein he fewe Monthes since amongst other his affaires tending to the same, hath delt with the Emperour by the Admirall of Arragon? beside the subtil snares by him wrought against those of Aken and Wesell, and more other Risks estates and places, (if truth may be spoken:) But onely for to become ouer all thinges of Christendome the vniuersall Lorde? And for to attayne thereunto the onely drift of the king of Spayne is, that he vnder externall shewe of entreatie for peace might bring these Countreies vnder his power, with oppression of their auncient lawes and priueledges, and set or place downe the seate
of

of his warres against the Princes of all kingdoms there. Where he should find forces both by water and land and also money in a readinesse.

Which thing being by the Queenes most excellent Maiestie of England discretely considered of, she as a defendor of true Religion many yeare since, is entred into League with these Countreies.

And wher in respect hereof lately, also is made a League betweene the King of Fraunce and the said Queene of England: The saide vnitied Provinces are also accepted in and vnto the same.

Whereupon the said Lord Ambassador may easly vnderstand, how inconuenient it is for the States in this constitution and shape of causes, to giue admonition of that which his Lordshippe doth propound, eyther vnto the foresaide Prince, or to the particuler States of the seuerall Provinces aforesaid.

Especially considering that they are instructed by so manifold examples, that the enemy intendeth or practiseth nothing but vnder the sweet name of entreaty for peace, to cloake the afterclaps of warre, and to enrappe them vnwarly with deceit: Of the which the States hope his most excellent Maiestie wil earnestly take consideration and not so much accompt of his affinity with the K. of Spain, but that he rather wil awaken by a endeavour for the vantage and welfare of whole Christendome.

And

And in that the Lord Ambassadoz made mention of the letters of the most excellent King Steven his Maiesties predecessor. The same hath bene right acceptable, declaring very honourably that Kings Councell in the gouernment of his people and Subiects.

And for so much as the States minde in heart nothing more, then to satisfie all Kings touching the causes of these warres and other their proceedings. Therefore they diligently haue answered the same letters to the ende they ioyntly might make manifest, how earnestly they alwaies haue endeouored to continue the good will and loue of the King of Poland towards these Countries.

In which earnest desire and will, they alwaies will perseuere towards his most excellent Maiestie, not doubting but that his Maiestie will infringeably vpholde the mutable trafficke & trade which cannot bee impeached so long as the common lawes of all Nations in reason shall take place.

For the rest the saide States doe right humbly commend vnto his most excellent Maiestie, the welfare and estate of these Prouinces and wil againe most earnestly endeavour, & they may not onely deserue his Maiesties good will but also encrease the same towardes them.

The States also doe beseech the said Honorable Lorde Ambassadoz, earnestly to signifie the same vnto his most excellent Maiestie and louingly

ly to preferre these Countreies, on which kindnes
and seruice the States will haue respect when oc-
casion shall so require.

Giuen in Sgrauen Hage
the 22. of Iuly. 1597.

